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LATE ANTIQUE SIGILLATA TABLEWARES IN ALBANIA

Introduction

This paper¹ aims to give a comprehensive account of the imported fine table wares in the territory of modern Albania in terms of their typology and distribution. It will focus on the available typological evidence of African Red Slip (ARS), Phocian Red Slip (PRS) and Cypriot Red Slip (CRS), the main recorded fine wares in Late Roman Albania.

An earlier endeavour for a general assessment of ARS presence only, was mainly focused on 5th to 6th century evidence from *Dyrrachium* and comparable evidence from other contemporaneous published assemblages in Albania.² Since then the data frame has been enhanced with recent stratigraphic evidences from *Dyrrachium*³ and *Lissos*⁴, recently published material from *Onchesmos* and *Hadrianopolis*⁵ as well as a recent assessment of material from *Apollonia*.⁶ Taking into account all this available material, in this paper I will focus on the problems of typology and distribution with the aim of scanning the situation and judging the future perspective of research on this topic. I have attempted a quantification of the collected fine ware assemblage by using the published information with the idea of initiating a future study on the typo-/chronological and geographical developments of this category of pottery.

Historical setting

The territory of Albania roughly corresponds to the extent of three of the reorganised Roman provinces – *Prevalis* in the north, *Epirus Nova* and *Epirus Vetus* in the south – due to

the administrative reorganization of the Roman Empire under the emperors Diocletian and Constantine in the late 3rd and beginning of the 4th century.⁷ The time of this political change was also chosen as the initial point for the chronological framework of this study, stretching up to the end of the 6th century. The reason for fixing the 6th century as a final terminus is arbitrary, due to limited published evidence available for the 7th century period. This chronological framework also roughly corresponds with the introduction of the late Roman ARS D1 ware in northern Tunisian workshops,⁸ and the period when the main Roman fine table wares, coexisted in a wide range of urban and rural centres of the Mediterranean basin after the appearance of both PRS and CRS, the main eastern fine ware competitors.⁹

Provenance of stratified/dated finds

The number of well-dated contexts from the Albanian territory is limited to some isolated excavated sites within the respective urban centres (fig. 1).¹⁰ Representative contexts, relevant to a precise chronological phase, possibly reflecting the history of these centres is still lacking. The quantity and the range of types for the 5th and 6th century deposits – the construction of the Triconch *triclinium* at *Buthrotum* (AD 420), the capture of *Dyrrachium* by the Ostrogoths in AD 479 (deposit Amf.07/706), *Buthrotum* context 1152 of the second quarter of the 6th century, reconstruction phase of the Circular Forum of *Dyrrachium* in the first half of the 6th century (deposits 115, 106, 108), an occupation deposit of the middle 6th century (deposit 305) at the Circular Forum at *Dyrrachium* and the Triconch Palace at *Buthrotum* (deposit 1676: middle/late 6th century) – provide the key ceramic assemblages for this study.

Concerning the 4th century, there are very few stratified contexts published so far in the Albanian literature. Dated contexts of the beginning of the 4th century from *Scodra* primarily attest the lowest presence of imported fine wares

¹ I would like to thank very much Prof. Dr. M. Mackensen and S. Zabehlicky for reading and commenting on earlier version of the text and for the valuable suggestions and remarks. Thanks are also due to O. Gilkes for improving the English version of this paper.

² SHKODRA-RRUGIA 2008, 19–27.

³ The stratigraphy recorded in the Roman amphitheatre and in the late Roman Circular Forum confronted with the pottery data has greatly helped to chronologically isolate the pottery assemblages of the late Vandal from those of the early Byzantine period: SHKODRA-RRUGIA 2011; EAD. forthcoming (a); EAD. forthcoming (b).

⁴ The excavation of 2006 in the apsidal building has provided two well dated sequences, one of the second half of the 5th century and the other of the first half of the 6th century: yet unpublished material.

⁵ MUCAJ ET AL. 2011, 41–103; PERNA/ÇONDI 2012, 162–169 Tav. 26–28.

⁶ In autumn 2013 the author had access to the fine ware material stored in the *Apollonia* storerooms, which publication will be the subject of a future contribution.

⁷ IOANNES MALALAS 13,11–13; 347.

⁸ MACKENSEN 1993, 433–435; MACKENSEN/SCHNEIDER 2002, 125.

⁹ HAYES 1972, 323; 371; HAYES 1980, 528.

¹⁰ The range of recorded types is disposed in the provided tables (figs. 2; 5–6), except for only three examples for which are provided illustrations (figs. 3–4). This is due to the new information these reveal by means of their typological elements as well as their provenance.

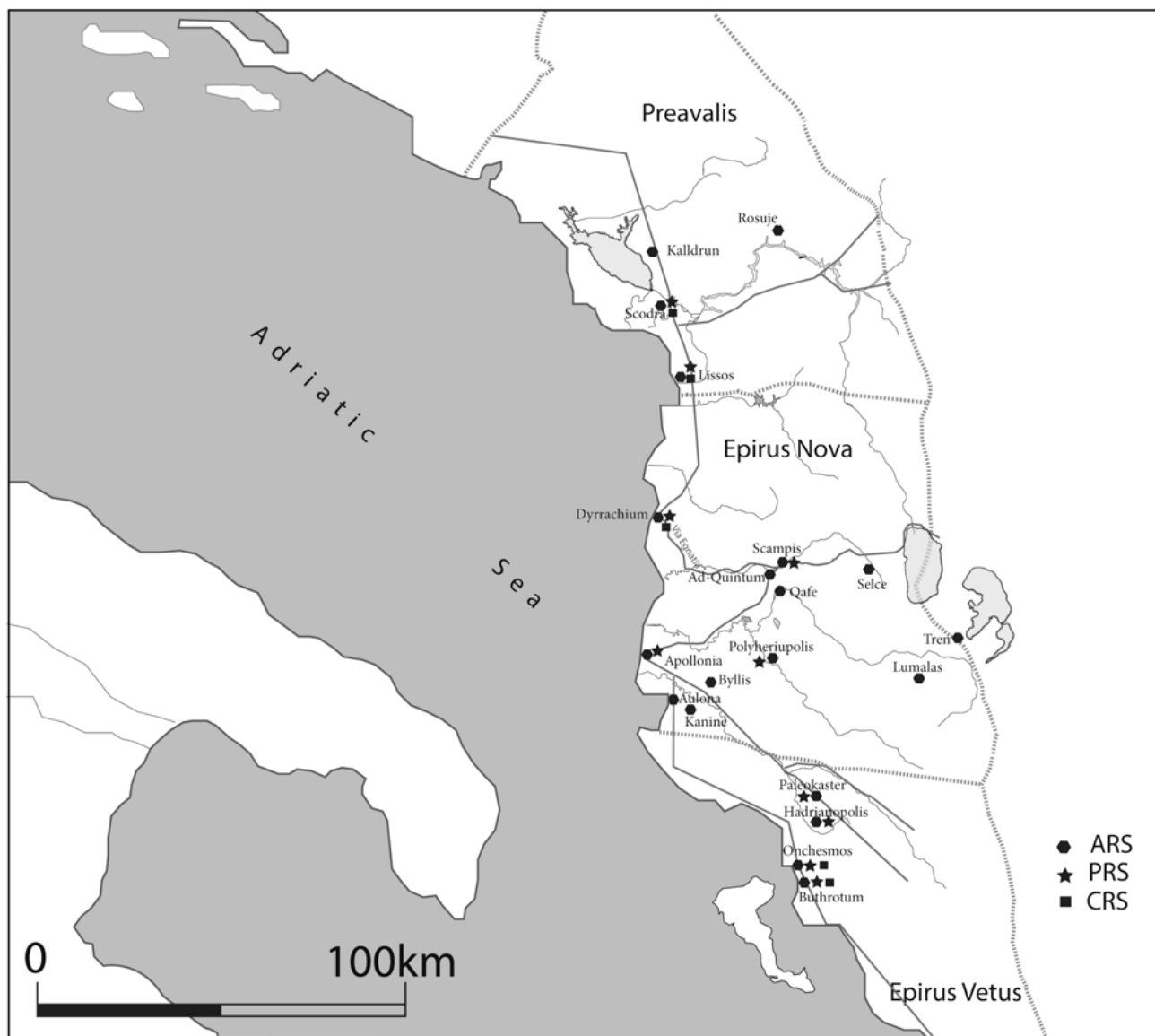


Fig. 1. Fine ware distribution in the late Roman provinces of Albania

here.¹¹ During the second half of the 4th century it appears that the quantity of ARS as well as the represented types become more frequent. The ARS C types Hayes 50A, Hayes 57 and Hayes 59A together with ARS D1 Hayes 61A, Hayes 67 and El Mahrine 14.2 are the typical finds of this phase which is chronologically supported also by a coin of Arcadius (395–408).¹² Closed dated contexts of the 4th century are documented at the *mutatio* of *Ad Quintum*, with few identified ARS sherds: two ARS types Hayes 50 and Hayes 80 are present in the first half of the 4th century context of the *apodyterium* whereas the variant Hayes 50B/61 (Bonifay 65) accompanied by a coin of Valentinian I (364–375) provides

a date in the second half of the 4th century for horizon II of the excavated dwelling.¹³ A less than ideally ‘closed’ context of 4th century date from Scampis attests the coexistence of the fine ARS C Hayes 50A with the possible ARS D2 type Sidi Khalifa 22.4.¹⁴ The limited 4th century stratigraphical evidence from *Dyrrachium* does not help to understand the patterns of ARS supply in town.¹⁵ Comparably for *Buthrotum*, some typical 4th century ARS C (Hayes 45, Hayes 50) and ARS D types (Hayes 58, Hayes 59) are associated with 3rd century material.¹⁶

¹¹ The stratigraphic circumstances for the archaeological material from Scodra are not clear enough for a relative chronological estimation. From the dated material of the beginning of the 4th century can be identified an ARS C type Hayes 46 and doubly ARS D1 Hayes 61C (2 examples), reported to have been found with coins of the beginning of the 4th century: HOXHA 2003, 144 cat.nos. 163–165 Tab. 12,1–3.

¹² HOXHA 2003, 144–145 cat.nos. 169–174; 177; 184–185.

¹³ CEKA 1976, 298 Tab. 9,5,8; 8,3.

¹⁴ CEROVA 2005, 165–166 Tab. 4,1–4.

¹⁵ The few collected examples, ARS C Hayes 41, Hayes 50A–B and ARS D1 Hayes 67 and Hayes 61B: SHKODRA 2006, 257–289; HOTI ET AL. 2008, 387; 393 phase V from the excavation of 2004 and phase IV from the excavation of 2005; are mixed up layers due to due to cut through pit for the construction of the podium of the Circular Forum: HOTI ET AL. 2008 figs. 8 (a); 11 (a).

¹⁶ REYNOLDS 2004, 225, 337 Appendix 1A.

The 5th century is somehow better represented with a number of well-stratified contexts. Excavations in the Triconch Palace at *Buthrotum* have produced an important sequence of ceramic assemblage for the 5th century period.¹⁷ The fine ware examples recorded in the construction level for the triconch *tricladium* (deposit 3042), late version of ARS forms Hayes 50B, Hayes 59A, Hayes 62 and Hayes 64 as well as a small version of PRS Hayes 2A, indicate a date after 400–425 for this activity.¹⁸ The evidence of the immediate abandonment of this high-status residence produced some ARS (Hayes 61B, Hayes 62) and PRS types (Hayes 3B), dated to AD 425–450.¹⁹ Further into the second half of the 5th century, the Vandal period ARS type Hayes 84 and PRS dish Hayes 3C, date the later construction phases in the site (deposit 3156), in the third quarter of the 5th century.²⁰

At *Dyrrachium*, the excavations of 2007 in the Roman amphitheatre established a well-dated ceramic assemblage (deposit 706) for the second half of the 5th century. The typological analysis of the fine ware from here, where the ARS types Hayes 87A, and Hayes 61 coexist with PRS bowl of type Hayes 3C, supported also by the evidence of the amphorae and cooking wares, is to be considered the main dating evidence.²¹ Another assemblage, recorded in the Circular Forum (phase V and VI)²² contains stratified pottery of the second half of the 5th century (ARS D2 Hayes 61B/Bonifay sigillee 38B3 and PRS Hayes 3E). A number of other ARS types such as Hayes 61A, 91B and 67, have been commonly recorded in the rescue excavations in *Dyrrachium*'s ancient city centre,²³ unfortunately with no clear stratigraphic relations. *Scodra*, during the first half of the 5th century is experiencing a high level of ARS supply²⁴ which does not seem to be the case for the second half of the century,²⁵ when the fine ware supply is shared within the three main red slip ware counterparts and PRS will constitute the prevailing group.²⁶ A comparable pattern is documented in a second half of the 5th century context from *Lissos*,²⁷ where both PRS and CRS constituting the main fine ware group²⁸

are followed by few ARS examples, types Hayes 50B, Hayes 80B/99 and Atlante XXXVI.2.

The frequency of the dish Hayes 61B accompanied by Hayes 50B/61, at *Byllis*, is key dating evidence for the relevant context in the first half/mid 5th century.²⁹

For the first half of the 6th century at *Dyrrachium* (deposits 106, 115), is noticed an increase in African fine ware imports and an extension of the range of represented types.³⁰ The main ARS types present, variants of Hayes 87B and 87C, Hayes 98A/B, Fulford 40.2, El Mahrine 18 and 31, indicate the prevalence of northern Tunisian production centres. The possible presence of central Tunisian ARS C during this phase can be inferred only by the type Hayes 89B, documented in the yet unstudied material from the excavation of 1999 which took place in the colonnade of the Circular Forum. Accompanying the ARS supply, the eastern counterpart PRS is always present during the 6th century in the town, though quantitatively in second place, represented by variants E, F and G of type Hayes 3.³¹ There is no noticeable difference in ARS quantity at *Dyrrachium* during the second half of the 6th century (deposit 305), despite a reduced number of represented types.³² ARS bowls of the types Hayes 93B, Hayes 87C, 91C, 104A–C as well as El Mahrine 18, El Mahrine 24.1, are recorded to be the most common imports. Towards the end of the 6th (deposit 103) and during the 7th century, the supply patterns of ARS at *Dyrrachium* differs both in terms of quantity and regional connections, with Oudna and El Mahrine productions as the most important ones.³³ The PRS supply is maintained to the same quantity throughout the second half of the 6th century with Hayes 3F being the typical form.

As for the 6th century at *Buthrotum*, the excavation at the triconch palace has produced a homogeneous context of the first half of the 6th century.³⁴ Here a range of north Tunisian ARS types are found, such as Hayes 93B, Hayes 94B, Hayes 97, variants of Hayes 87B and Hayes 91B/C which form the most typical forms. The second half of the 6th century shows the decreased importance of ARS supply, which seems to be substituted by the growing quantity of PRS ware.³⁵ Two of the represented types for this period are the flanged bowl of type Hayes 91D and the bowl of type Hayes 99C.³⁶

Scodra, during the first half of the 6th century, clearly reveal the same trend of fine ware supply as half a century earlier, with eastern Mediterranean PRS overwhelming the numbers of ARS present here.³⁷ In the course of the second

¹⁷ REYNOLDS 2002, 221–224.

¹⁸ Ibid. 221 fig. 21, 1–4.

¹⁹ Ibid. deposit 3257; 221 fig. 21, 6–8.

²⁰ Ibid. 221 fig. 21, 11–12.

²¹ SHKODRA-RRUGIA forthcoming (a).

²² SHKODRA 2006 contexts Fo.05/106 and Fo.05/7, respectively 280–285 figs. 13a–b, 264–265 figs. 4a–b; HOTI ET AL. 2008, 387 fig. 9, 393–394; 12.

²³ Personal investigation of the recorded material from here, published very selectively in HOTI ET AL. 2004 and some other forms included here derive from the excavation of 2005 in a habitation site within the urban centre (Gora 05): SHEHI 2007, 166–169 sito nr. 4 fig. 5 Tav. 1.

²⁴ The dish type Hayes 61B being the typical shape coexisting as well as the earliest introduced PRS types; HOXHA 2003, 144–145 ARS cat.nos. 175–176; 178–181; 187–189; 192–193; 196; 205–206; 214; 146 PRS cat.nos. 216–218; 221–224.

²⁵ This assumption is based on counting the relevant examples as these are given in the catalogue as the provided graph (HOXHA 2003 Tab. 19) is not clear enough: HOXHA 2003, 145 type Hayes 61B; cat.nos. 197–198, one of which is supported chronologically by a coin of Anastasius (491–518); Hayes 87A: cat.nos. 194–195; PRS type Hayes 3B: cat.no. 225.

²⁶ The CRS type Hayes 2 together with some other ARS types are widely dated in the 5th century: HOXHA 2003, 147 cat.no. 248; 144 cat.no. 183; 145 cat.no. 186 respectively.

²⁷ Contexts B25, B27 and B28: unpublished material from the excavation of 2006 in the apsidal building.

²⁸ Within the five recorded examples of PRS, types Hayes 3B (3), Hayes 3C (1) and Hayes 3E (1) are identified. The CRS recorded types are

Hayes 2 (3) and Hayes 2008/1420 (1): material from the excavation of 2006: unpublished.

²⁹ BONIFAY/CEROVA 2008, 37–38 fig. 2, 11–14.

³⁰ SHKODRA-RRUGIA 2011; EAD. forthcoming (b).

³¹ EAD. 2011.

³² Ibid.; EAD. forthcoming (b).

³³ Hayes 99B–C and 104B–C as well as some of the latest introduced types Hayes 107 and 108 are the most typical finds.

³⁴ REYNOLDS 2004, 228.

³⁵ Id. 2002, 224 fig. 22; id. 2004, 240 note 48.

³⁶ Id. 2002, 223 fig. 22.

³⁷ Twelve PRS examples (Hayes 3B, Hayes 3E and Hayes 3F) from datable contexts of the second half of the 5th–first half of 6th centuries, against 5 ARS (Hayes 87C, Hayes 91C, Hayes 99A, Hayes 99B) are known: HOXHA 2003, 146 cat.nos. 225–236; 145 cat.nos. 199–201; 207–208 respectively; and yet, another two examples of the variant Hayes 3B–C are documented in contexts of the last 5th–beginning of the 6th century: HOXHA 2003, 146 cat.nos. 243–244.

half of the 6th century, the quantities of both ARS and PRS are reduced and we find only one ARS example, type El Mahrine 32,³⁸ and five PRS examples of Hayes 3F.³⁹ A fluctuated pattern is revealed at *Lissos*, a better represented quantity of ARS as opposed to PRS during the 6th century. Northern Tunisian bowls and dishes, Hayes 99A,B, Hayes 87A, Hayes 96, Hayes 2008/1440, count for 10 against 8 PRS documented examples (Hayes 3C, 3B, 3E, 3F, 3H).⁴⁰

Typological evidence

African Red Slip

The introduction of the fine red slip ware production in the area of north Africa in the 1st century AD, soon becoming the predominant ware throughout the extended territory of the Roman empire,⁴¹ has strongly determined the remarkable changes recorded in the fine ware production and distribution mechanisms during the Roman/late Roman period. This became the most popular table ware, substituting all varieties of Italian and Eastern sigillata wares in circulation and constituting the model inspiration for the late Roman eastern fine ware counterparts.

Published evidence from the territory of Albania shows the clear predominance of the ARS ware as opposed to other fine wares of the eastern Mediterranean origin. The recorded examples count for a total of 171 ARS C of central Tunisia and 283 ARS D of the northern Tunisian production centres (fig. 2). The introduction of ARS D1 and D2 in northern Tunisia respectively during the beginning and the second half of the 4th century,⁴² appears to bring about changes in the supply trends of ARS. The supply of central Tunisian ARS C ware is clearly predominating this earlier stage of ARS D introduction, with a variety of plain and applied decorated type. Recent investigation of two base fragments from *Dyrrachium* (fig. 3)⁴³ may appear to be of a great importance in terms of providing possible evidence for the production of this ware at Djilma.⁴⁴ No applique decorated ARS C vessels are known from Djilma,⁴⁵ except for the relief-decorated ARS lamps.⁴⁶

With a shared supply of ARS C and D1, the 4th century seems to mark a high water mark of the noted presence of ARS in the Albanian territory indicated by the exceptional quantity and wide distribution of ARS C Hayes 50A-B reach-

ing all corners of the country. Hayes 50 is by far the most common ARS vessel attested in Albanian territory with a total of 123 published examples (fig. 2). This form also records the widest distribution as far north as Rosuja⁴⁷ and as far east as Korça.⁴⁸ Further into this region, late Roman imported ARS could also be expected to be present in Tren, considering the nomination '*terra sigillata imitations*' given to finds from the late Roman phase of this prehistoric site.⁴⁹ The ARS C large bowl, Hayes 45, is another well-attested form of this production (18 examples), with *Apollonia* and *Hadrianopolis* being the most distinguished sites for its presence (fig. 2). An example worth mentioning of the coexistence of both central Tunisian ARS C3 and northern Tunisian ARS D1 is recorded in a funerary context from Kalldrun, northwestern Albania.⁵⁰ As part of the material collected in the necropolis are documented an ARS C3 appliqué decorated bowl of type Hayes 53A (fig. 4,1)⁵¹ and another ARS D bowl of type El Mahrine 52.2 (Hayes 91B) (fig. 4,2).⁵² The chronological evidence from here⁵³ further recalls the on-going discussions on the earliest appearance of ARS D type Hayes 91.⁵⁴

During the 5th century, ARS ware, of primarily northern Tunisian origin,⁵⁵ is represented at an uneven level at sites such as *Scodra* reaching its peak during the first half of the 5th century; or sites such as *Apollonia* and *Hadrianopolis* where the quantity of the ware reaches its lowest point (fig. 2). This may reflect the specific urban development of the respective sites, though considering sites such as *Dyrrachium* and *Buthrotum* the so far published evidence for the relevant period is very limited. This may not be considered adequate for making representative assumptions. Nevertheless, it appears that both ARS D1 and D2 are the most important supplies to the Albanian market. The most typical find in the main coastal sites, as well as further inland as far as Polyheriupolis,⁵⁶ is the dish type Hayes 61 (fig. 2). Another widely distributed ARS D1 form, type Hayes 67, is attested as far inland as Lumalas (Korçë),⁵⁷ Despite the variety of other attested types (Hayes 62, Hayes 73, Hayes 67/71, El

³⁸ Ibid. 145 cat.no. 209 Tab. 15,6.

³⁹ Ibid. 146 cat.nos. 237–241.

⁴⁰ Contexts B-8 and B-16 from the excavation of c.2006 in the apsidal building.

⁴¹ HAYES 1972; TORTORELLA 1987; ID. 1995.

⁴² MACKENSEN 1993, 433–435; ID. 2002a fig. 14; ID./SCHNEIDER 2002, 125–128.

⁴³ The illustrated example, recorded during the excavation of 1967 at *Dyrrachium* amphitheater, is exhibited in Durrës Museum (inv. no.17607); the second example is found during the excavation of 2005 at the Circular Forum: SHKODRA 2006, 285 fig. 14; HOTI ET AL. 2008, 393 fig. 12 phase IV.

⁴⁴ I am grateful to Prof. Dr. M. Mackensen for his valuable comments on the resemblance of the sample from *Dyrrachium* vessel with the characteristics of Djilma ware. With the kind help of G. Schneider this sample is undergoing chemical analyses, which results will be the subject of a forthcoming contribution: SHKODRA-RRUGIA forthcoming (c).

⁴⁵ Prötzel has argued about the possibility of such a production, but there is no recorded evidence yet: PRÖTTEL 1996, 20.

⁴⁶ MACKENSEN 2002, 57–69.

⁴⁷ JUBANI/CEKA 1971 Tab. 7,7.

⁴⁸ Recent conducted field survey (2011) in the area north of city centre inform the identification of this type, which looking at the clay matrix characteristics appears to be a product of Sidi Marzouck Tounsi. Thanks to E. Shehi for this information.

⁴⁹ KORRUTI 1971, 43–44.

⁵⁰ ANAMALI/KOMATA 1978, 96–106.

⁵¹ Most probably made in the highly specialized potteries at Sidi Marzouck Tounsi in the period encompassing c. 320–430/450: HAYES 1972, 81; MACKENSEN/SCHNEIDER 2002, 132; MACKENSEN 2003, 284–285 Table 2.

⁵² MACKENSEN 1993, 619 Taf.75; HAYES 1972, 140–141 fig.26.

⁵³ Based on the coin evidence, the chronology of the Kalldrun site may extend from the very beginning of the Roman empire (the earliest recorded coin is of emperor Octavian) to the middle of the 4th century testified by the coin of Constantius II (337–361): ANAMALI/KOMATA 1978, 101–105.

⁵⁴ HAYES 1977, 281 fig. 21,1,4; Atlante I, 106; MACKENSEN 1993, 431; BONIFAY 2004, 179.

⁵⁵ With very restricted distribution of the vandal ARS C Hayes 84 at *Lissos* (Context B-2 from the excavation of 2005 at the apsidal building) and context 3156 from the Triconch Palace at *Buthrotum* (REYNOLDS 2002, 221 fig. 21,11) so far, as well as the late vandal ARS C Hayes 89 at *Dyrrachium* (context Fo.99, in process of study by the author) and *Onchesmos* (MUÇAJ ET AL. 2011, 50–52).

⁵⁶ SPAHIU 1990 Tab. 11,4.10.14.17.

⁵⁷ An Iron Age fortified centre clearly re-occupied in the late Roman period: ANDREA 1968, 131–132; LERA 1971, 179 Tab. 1. One complete example of this deep bowl is displayed in the Archeological Museum of Korça (inv.no. 313/986).

Type	Provenance	Occurrence																		
		Kalldrun	Rosuje	Scodra	Lissos	Dyrrachium	Byllis	Apollonia	Ad-Quintum	Scampis	Lumalas	Polyheriupolis	Paleokaster	Hadrianopol	Onchesmos	Buthrotum	Selce	Aulona	Kanine	Castle of Qafe
ARS																				
Hayes 45A	Central ARS Tunisian				2	1	1	5						6	1	2				
Hayes 46				1				1												
Hayes 49						1		1												
Hayes 50A-B			1	3	7	18		18	1	3				53(?)	2	16				
Hayes 57				1		1										1				
Hayes 59A				1				1												
Hayes 52B						3		1						1						
Hayes 53A			1					1					1			1				
Hayes 58A																4				
Hayes 70var													1							
Hayes 84					1											1				
Hayes 89B						1									4					
Atlante XXVII/5				1																
Total ARS C			1	1	7	10	25	1	28	1	3			2	60	7	25			
Hayes 58B	Northern ARS Tunisian							3					1		4					
Hayes 59B								4		1			3		1					
Hayes 60								1												
Hayes 61A-C				11		9	3	2		1		2			1	3				
Hayes 62						2										2				
Bonifay 65							1		1											
Hayes 67				3		2		4			1		2		2	5				
Hayes 67/71				1																
Hayes 73				1				2												
El.Mahrine 16				2																
Hayes 78				1																
S.Khalifa 14				1																
Hayes 79/93						2										1				
S.Khalifa 22.4											2			1						
Hayes 80									1							2				
Hayes 87A-C				3	1	14										6				
Hayes 88v																1				
Hayes 90A/B															1	1		1		
Fulford 40						1														
Fulford 37																1				
Bonifay 35						1														
Hayes 91A-D			1	5		6		1							4	4				
Atlante XLIX,10				2		1											1			
Hayes 93						1										15				
Hayes 94						1									2	4				
El.Mahrine 31						1														
El.Mahrine 32				1																
Hayes 96					1										2					
Hayes 97																2				
Hayes 98						3														
Hayes 80B/99					1															
Hayes 99A-C				2	6	8	1			1					7	2		1	1	
Hayes 87B/109						3										1				
Hayes 103																2				
S.Khalifa 52			1																	
Hayes 104A-C			2		7						1			5	16					
Hayes 90/105														1						
Hayes 105														19	1				1	
Hayes 106														2	1			1		
Hayes 107					1	1														
Hayes 108					1															
Hayes 109					2															
Total ARS D		1		36	9	66	6	17	2	5	1	3	5	2	49	75	1	1	2	2
References		Anamali Komata 1978	Jubani/ Ceka 1971	Hoxha 2003	Unpub- lished	Shkodra- Rrugia 2011	Bonifay/ Cerova 2008	Unpublished	Ceka 1976	Cerova 2005	Andrea 1968	Spahiu 1990	Bace 1976	Ferna/Condi 2012.	Mucaj et al. 2011	Reynolds 2002; Reynolds 2004; Reynolds et al. 2008.	Ceka 1985	Mucaj et al. 2011	Komata 1991	Cerova 1987

Fig. 2. The occurrence of ARS in Albania.

Mahrine 16, S.Khalifa 14 and Hayes 91A-B), the general trend of supply may suggest a reduced presence of ARS ware towards the end of the 5th century in Albanian sites.

The first half of the 6th century is once more recording a peak of ARS supply as the presence of ARS D1 and D2 (predominantly ARS D2) at *Dyrrachium*,⁵⁸ *Buthrotum* and *Lissos*⁵⁹ attests. This supply is maintained at fairly even/slightly reduced quantities towards the end of this century but primarily oriented towards two main northern Tunisian production centres, El Mahrine and Oudna. Echoing this, the ARS D2 bowls of type Hayes 99A-B, Hayes 91C-AtlanteX-LIX, 10 of Oudna/GroupX workshops and Hayes 104 appear to be the best known forms throughout the 6th century period as it is noted elsewhere.⁶⁰

Phocean Red Slip

Second in importance is the fine ware group originating in Phoecea/Gryneon⁶¹ represented by a total of 222 examples. The earliest appearance of the ware, types Hayes 1 and 2, is recorded in contexts of the beginning/first half of the 5th century at *Scodra*,⁶² and at *Buthrotum* where type Hayes 2A comes from a close dated deposit (400–425) of the construction of the triconch *triclinium*.⁶³ There is a clear increase in the presence of this fine ware towards the middle of the 5th century and we can see different distribution patterns. The most distinguished form present appears to be Hayes 3 (accounting for 174 examples) with variants 3E (31 examples) and 3F (58 examples) being the most frequent (fig. 5).

In terms of its regional distribution, PRS ware as opposed to ARS, appears to have been confined to a restricted number of sites, mainly coastal habitations, or rarely in sites placed very close to road access. Further to patterns of distribution, the increasing or the decreasing quantities at one site differ from one another. What appears to be the case for *Dyrrachium*, as opposed to both *Scodra* and *Buthrotum*, is that the quantities of PRS never exceed that of ARS supply in the town. The earliest documented presence so far is in well-dated contexts of the second half of the 5th century.⁶⁴ The ware is generally present throughout the 6th and 7th centuries (fig. 5), however it is never as important as the ARS supply. At *Scodra*, we see that during the second half of the 5th and the first half of the 6th century the quantities of PRS ware exceed

those of the ARS presence.⁶⁵ Similarly at *Buthrotum* during the first half of the 6th century, the supply of PRS though less than ARS, is still high and comparable with quantities from *Scodra*.⁶⁶ Further evidence from the second half of the 6th century shows that PRS at *Buthrotum* became the principal fine ware, with Hayes 3G as the typical chronological indicator as well as the latest produced form (Hayes 10C).⁶⁷ At *Dyrrachium* similarly, the chronological significance of the transitive variant Hayes (3G/10) is as important as at *Buthrotum* for isolating the contexts of the second half of the 6th century from those of the first half of the same century.⁶⁸

Cypriot Red Slip

The third identified fine ware production is the Cypriot red slip ware. Its exact place of production, however clearly expressed in the nomination,⁶⁹ is yet a matter of on-going discussions and future researches.⁷⁰ The collected evidence for this fine ware appears even more restricted in respect to both ARS and PRS fine wares, counting for 17 examples only (fig. 6). Its distribution appears to be very much connected to coastal sites only. The earliest appearance of type Hayes 1 is not yet clear, as the only example from *Lissos* is attested as a residual in a 6th century context.⁷¹ The following form, type Hayes 2,⁷² is better illustrated from second half of the 5th century contexts at *Lissos*⁷³, *Scodra*⁷⁴ and *Onchesmos*,⁷⁵ as well as first half of the 6th century contexts from *Buthrotum*⁷⁶ and *Onchesmos*.⁷⁷ Lastly, another CRS type Hayes 3, present at *Scodra*,⁷⁸ is perhaps to be considered a later development of this type.⁷⁹

Concluding remarks

The examination of the range and available quantity of the late Roman fine wares from Albania is primarily revealing the clear predominance of ARS wares. The homogeneous distribution of the central Tunisian ARS C throughout the Albanian sites followed by a fewer quantity of ARS D shapes during the last 4th to the mid 5th century could be taken as an indication of the uniformity of the economic patterns of the Roman empire still not affected by the growth of East. The introduction of eastern Mediterranean fine ware counterparts as well as the changed political situation with the growing influence of barbarian invasions appears to have brought

⁵⁸ The recorded examples from here, Hayes 87B and 87C, Hayes 98A/B, Fulford 40.2, El Mahrine 18 and 31, indicate a share of supply between Sidi Khalifa and Oudna/El Mahrine production centres: SHKODRA-RRUGIA forthcoming (b).

⁵⁹ The relevant contexts from here (context B8 and B16), dated in the period 480–580, produced five examples of Hayes 99A and 99B, one Hayes 96 and one Hayes 87A: unpublished material from the excavation of 2006.

⁶⁰ TORTORELLA 1998, 43.

⁶¹ HAYES 1972, 323–324; CAU ET AL. 2011, 6–7.

⁶² HOXHA 2003, 146 cat.nos. 216–219; 221–224.

⁶³ REYNOLDS 2002, 221 fig. 21.4. Whereas type Hayes 1 from *Buthrotum* is recorded as residual in mid-late 6th century context: REYNOLDS 2004, context 1676 Table 13,2.

⁶⁴ The context Amph.07/706 from the amphitheatre: SHKODRA-RRUGIA forthcoming (a). – Contexts Fo.04/18, Fo.04/28, Fo.05/7, from the excavation of 2004 and 2005 close to the podium of the Circular Forum: HOTI ET AL. 2008 fig. 9; SHKODRA 2006, 264–265 fig. 4a,33–34.

⁶⁵ 14 examples appear to have been recorded during this time span: HOXHA 2003, 146 cat.nos. 225–236; 243–244 Tab. 19.

⁶⁶ REYNOLDS 2004, 228; 238.

⁶⁷ ID. 2002, 224 context 1676 fig. 22; ID. 2004, 228; 238 Table 13,2.

⁶⁸ SHKODRA-RRUGIA 2011 context Fo.00/103.

⁶⁹ HAYES 1972, 371–372; HAYES 2001, 277 note 26.

⁷⁰ MEYZA 2007, 13; CAU ET AL. 2011, 7; POBLOME/FIRAT 2011, 49–51.

⁷¹ Context B-8 from 2006 excavation of the apsidal building: unpublished.

⁷² HAYES 1972, 373–376 fig. 80; REYNOLDS 2011, 57–61.

⁷³ Coexisting with PRS types Hayes 3B, 3C and 3E and ARS types Hayes 50B and Hayes 80B/99: Context B-28 from the 2006 excavation of the apsidal building: unpublished.

⁷⁴ HOXHA 2003, 72 Tab. 16,11.

⁷⁵ From the excavation of Tower 1: MUÇAJ ET AL. 2011, 75 Tab. 19,140.

⁷⁶ REYNOLDS 2004, context 115, cat.nos. 248; 355.

⁷⁷ From the excavation of tower 6: MUÇAJ ET AL. 2011, 75 Tab. 19,41.

⁷⁸ HOXHA 2003, 146 Tab. 17,6.

⁷⁹ MEYZA 2007, 54, Pl. 18,H3.2.

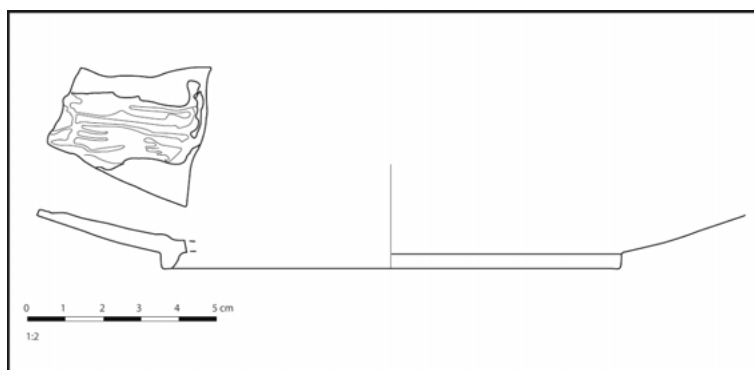


Fig. 3. Central Tunisian ARS bowl from *Dyrrachium*.



Fig. 4. ARS finds from Kalldrun (Shkodër).

Type PRS	Occurrence									
	Scodra	Lissos	Dyrrachium	Apollonia	Scampis	Polyheriupolis	Paleokaster	Hadrianopolis	Onchesmos	Buthrotum
Hayes 1A					1					
Hayes 1B	2							2		3
Hayes 1D	1				2					
Hayes 2									3	1
Hayes 2A	3							3	2	1
Hayes 2B	2									
Hayes 3			2					2	17	15
Hayes 3A		1								
Hayes 3B	3	4								1
Hayes 3C		2	2						1	4
Hayes 3B-C	2									
Hayes 3D										1
Hayes 3E	9	6	3	1	1	1			7	3
Hayes 3C-F		1	2							1
Hayes 3F	8	4	10				2	1	20	13
Hayes 3G			2						2	4
Hayes 3G/10									9	1
Hayes 3H		2								
Hayes 4	1		1							
Hayes 5										1
Hayes 9			3							
Hayes 8									1	
Hayes 10A			3						6	
Hayes 10C	2		2						2	5
Total PRS	33	20	30	1	4	1	2	8	70	54

Fig. 5. The occurrence of PRS in Albania.

about changes in the fine ware distribution mechanisms in the period following the mid 5th century, reflected in a restricted distribution of certain wares (the supply of central Tunisian rouletted forms) or different ranges of fine wares productions supplying different sites (the very restricted CRS presence to coastal sites only). The restricted distribution of PRS ware into fewer inland sites as opposed to ARS as well as the different represented quantities for different sites (*Scodra*, *Dyrrachium*, *Buthrotum*) suggests regional differences in the supply of PRS and consequently different distribution patterns for this fine ware.

Despite providing an addition to the set of data available for the study of mechanisms of consumption and distribution of this category of pottery, the analysis of Albanian evidence is revealing two main problems. Firstly, relatively few of the published material is providing relevant stratigraphical evidence. Secondly, there is faced a confusion in the applied terminology for this category of pottery in Albanian literature until 1990. It is either called '*pseudoterrasigillata*' or '*im-*

itation of sigillata'. In some of the published cases the distinction between different products (ARS, PRS and CRS) is difficult, and possible only if the illustration is helpful. In other published evidences it is noticed any wrong identification of certain vessel-type from the Hayes 1972 publication. This makes necessary the re-assessment of the whole available material. A renewed collection of all available material into a better-illustrated and comprehensive database of the whole range of types and productions is of primary importance. On the other hand, the limitation of the representative statistics makes the need of dating stratified contexts a very important mean for investigating and interpreting the distribution and social patterns of consumption. This will also help to a better tracing of the regional trade patterns. These problems and the above discussed trends and ideas are intended to be the subject of detailed research in the near future.

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Type \ CRS	Occurrence			
	Scodra	Lissos	Onchesmos	Buthrotum
Hayes 1		1		
Hayes 2	1	5	2	1
Hayes 3	1	1		
Hayes 7				1
Hayes 8			1	
Hayes 9			1	
Hayes 2008/1420			1	
Total CRS	2	8	4	2

Fig. 6. The occurrence of CRS in Albania.

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